

PSCOA Meeting for Closures

I have spent the last 13 years at the Quehanna Boot Camp to help rehabilitate incarcerated individuals of the Commonwealth reenter their communities as productive members of society.

In early February, I like many of my peers scrolling social media found numerous articles being published by the local media outlets related to the proposed closures of the Quehanna Boot Camp and SCI Rockview.

As I began to process what was happening and read through the pages and pages of information, data, numbers etc. I realized that the numbers in the data and those attached to the Quehanna Boot Camp didn't match the conditions I work in daily.

As you do more of a deep dive into the numbers that were provided by the steering committees report, you will see that they're not factual. They're just not true. Period. The projects that are sited as upcoming costs don't exist or have over the past few years been finished.

In 2024 the facility finished construction on a new multimillion dollar annex that includes a brand-new visiting room. It includes a state-of-the-art training room dedicated to just that, the development of our staff and Officers. Offices for folks who had been sharing prior to its completion.

I'm disappointed that this department would publicly release and publish a document to the governor's office and residents of this commonwealth that are so blatantly false. While dismissing or leaving out the incredible accomplishments from this institution its staff and inmates alike. Quite frankly it's disgusting to see such an economically impactful decision being made on a foundation of nothing more than lies.

I did come to the realization that I had encountered the author of this document at least one other time in my career. We were acquainted at an arbitration hearing facilitated at Quehanna. He, the author, would go on to testify at that hearing on behalf of the commonwealth against female corrections officers being paid double time when mandated out of turn, even though male corrections officers were afforded that rate in the same circumstance, as contracted by the PSCOA. That's not someone I'll forget as a woman pursuing big career goals as an officer in a correctional setting.

I don't understand what the drive or motivation to close the Boot Camp truly are or why such carelessness in reporting happened as it relates to the data collected in this committee's report. What I do know is that Dr Harry, you trusted and appointed this committee to represent an honest assessment of your department. Unfortunately, much like the day he testified the women corrections officers at Quehanna were undeserving of a fair and equal wage, his assessment dictates that you, the governor, the residents and staff of the Commonwealth too, are undeserving of his quality and most importantly, honesty in reporting.

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